

be remembered with the gratitude and admiration of many.

HONORING KYLE PIERCE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Kyle Pierce, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Kyle worked in several of my Indiana offices during my first and second terms in Congress, serving as an intern and later as a staff assistant. Kyle is a self-starter and always delivered on whatever was asked of him. He was integral to the success of many of the events we put on around the District. Since leaving our office, Kyle has gone on to work for the Indiana Attorney General, and now works at Hathaway Strategies as an Associate Project Manager. He is also currently pursuing a law degree at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

On a personal note, I admire Kyle's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. He was a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Kyle's future is very bright. I want to thank Kyle for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION CENTENNIAL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, December 1, 2018 marks Romania's Great Union Centennial. It was on this day 100 years ago that members of the Romanian National Assembly gathered together and unanimously voted to unify the territories that they represented.

That same year, as World War I raged on, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Hugh L. Scott, the first American high-official to visit Romania, addressed the Romanian Parliament. Gen. Scott assured the parliamentarians that the United States would fight with them and the other Allied partners until victory was secured.

Today, Romania stands as a country that has faithfully contributed to European peace and shared the burden of our collective transatlantic security. Romania also has contributed greatly to NATO's operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and to the Alliance's capacity to defend against ballistic missile threats.

We Americans are proud to recognize the contribution of many generations of Romanian-Americans to the history and the development of the United States, and to honor their rich cultural heritage as an intimate part of the very fabric of U.S. society.

Therefore, recognizing the outstanding strategic partnership between our two nations, I congratulate Romania and all Romanian-Americans on their celebration of the Great Union Centennial.

MAJOR HOMER L. PEASE POST OFFICE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R. 6621, a bill to designate the post office at 530 East Main Street in Johnson City, Tennessee, as the "Major Homer L. Pease Post Office."

A native of Johnson City, Major Homer Pease lived one of the most interesting lives I've ever seen. Major Pease first tried to join the Marine Corps in 1942 at age 13 but was turned away; so, he convinced a stranger to act as his father at the Army recruiting office instead.

After he successfully joined the Army, he then completed basic training and became a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne, landing at Normandy on D-Day. He was wounded shortly after but later rejoined his unit fighting in the Ardennes Forest, the Battle of the Bulge and Berchtesgaden. When he was wounded again, the Army discovered how old he was and sent him home at 15.

He was awarded a bronze star and a Purple Heart for his service and returned home to complete high school. However, on his 16th birthday, he was again called to serve, making it as far as Fort Bragg before the Army sent him home once more. But his commitment to his country wasn't done there. He served in ROTC in high school, and at ETSU, before receiving his commission in the National Guard after college.

Even then, he still felt a calling to serve his country and later became a U.S. Army Ranger at age 36, arriving in Vietnam in March 1966. Unfortunately, on November 19 of that year, while leading a ground combat operation, Homer Pease fell on the battlefield. For the bravery he displayed, he was awarded the Silver Star, another Purple Heart and was promoted to Major.

A picture of heroism, we can all recognize Major Pease's contributions to our country and naming this Post Office in honor of his patriotism is one way to ensure his legacy endures. I urge support for this legislation.

HONORING MIKE LYNCH

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Mike Lynch, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Mike served as my top advisor in Indiana during my first term in Congress. In that role, he helped open our district office, established our constituent service operations, and managed our Indiana-based staff. Since leaving our office, Mike has worked in senior leadership roles at SpaceX, DAQRI, and now works as the Chief Revenue Officer at WaveOptics.

On a personal note, Mike is a talented leader and wise advisor that I greatly admire. We share a love of Wabash College and the life

lessons of sports. But, more importantly, we share a belief that it's never wrong to do things the right way.

I want to thank Mike for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him and Lacy continued success in all that remains ahead for their family.

HONORING THE COALITION AGAINST INSURANCE FRAUD

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud on their 25th Anniversary.

The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud represents a wide array of consumer groups, insurance companies, and government agencies in combating all forms of insurance fraud. Among these groups, the Coalition's membership includes several companies from Ohio. Cincinnati Insurance and Great American Insurance are both based in my hometown of Cincinnati. It also includes Nationwide Insurance Company, based in Columbus. These organizations work together through the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud to empower public and private groups against our nation's proliferating fraud problem.

Contrary to popular myth, insurance fraud is not a victimless crime. In fact, common fraud schemes often prey specifically upon the innocent and vulnerable. Fraud causes everyone's insurance premiums to rise, and those who commit fraud are estimated to steal at least \$80 billion a year.

I understand the Coalition has helped enact more than 100 state anti-fraud laws and educate millions of Americans on how to protect themselves against damaging schemes. I also understand the Coalition conducts research studies for decision-makers like myself to more effectively target and prevent fraud as we consider relevant policy. I am grateful for the Coalition's efforts to protect Americans from fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me in congratulating the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud on 25 years of advice, education, and assistance to the American public and lawmakers alike. Truth and honesty matter.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN EPELDI

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin Epeldi, better known as Marty, for his 23 years of service as a United States Postal Service letter carrier.

Marty was born and raised in our state's capital city, Boise, Idaho. Martin graduated from Boise High School and then Boise State University. He is also a proud member of Boise's Basque community. For over two decades, Marty has served our community as a letter carrier, delivering the mail 'neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of

their appointed rounds' and Marty is no exception.

Marty has delivered mail to my Boise office for almost twenty years. In addition to providing trusted and timely delivery of the daily mail, he is a welcome and celebrated visitor to my Boise office. Members of my staff always look forward to his friendly conversation and entertaining stories. Marty's contagious smile and laugh and his outgoing disposition will certainly be missed by the residents and business people of downtown Boise.

It is an honor to congratulate Martin Epeldi on his remarkable dedication and service to the citizens of Boise. I wish him an enjoyment retirement and much pleasure spending time with family and friends.

HONORING STEVE SHARP

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Steve Sharp, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Steve worked in my Muncie office for over a year, serving in a variety of capacities and focused primarily on our field operations. Steve has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our organization. Since leaving our office, Steve has worked as a financial adviser for Foresters Financial Services and WestPoint Financial Group.

I want to thank Steve for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Gold Star Mothers of Northern California:

Carolyn Acosta, Mother of Spc. Rudy Acosta; Loretta J. Bridges, Mother of Staff Sgt. Steven Bridges; Betty Hall, Mother of Sgt. 1st Class Bryan E. Hall; Satnam Kaur, Mother of Cpl. Gurpreet Singh; Dianne Layfield, Mother of LCpl. Travis Layfield; Suzy Maddox, Mother of Sgt. Matthew William Maddox; Jan Martinez, Mother of Private 1st Class Jesse Jack Martinez; Debbie Mason, Mother of Spc. Roy Brooks Mason; Karen Meredith, Mother of 1st Lt. Ken Ballard; Rinda Pope, Mother of Private 1st Class Alexander R. Varela; Patricia Schumacher, Mother of LCpl. Victor Dew.

These are the Mothers of brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of their country. The Gold Star Mothers of Northern California highlight perhaps the most binding characteristic of these heroes: they are family. They come from the towns occupying the vast valleys and foothills of Northern California. They come from high schools and churches that produce some of America's greatest minds. But most importantly, they come from the homes of loving families.

When we as a nation lose a soldier and a patriot, these Mothers lose a child. We must remember that for the families of these fallen heroes, as with countless other families in our country, every day is Memorial Day. Time, sadly, does not heal all wounds. The grief of our Gold Star Mothers is just as great today as the day the casualty officer came to their door. Their loss is a heavy burden that they carry with them every day. Nonetheless, they persevere to keep alive the spirit of their brave children.

I have heard many stories of the young men from Northern California who have fallen in combat—among them; Garret Pant, Jeremiah McCleery, Joshua Hardt, Victor Dew, and Sky Mote. By all accounts, these young men wanted to serve their country from the time they were in grade school. They sacrificed their lives and their promising futures to protect their fellow countrymen, and for that, we owe them a tremendous debt. Although we can never repay that debt, we can always remind these Mothers of our respect and appreciation for the sacrifices their children made and the work they are doing to carry on the legacy of each and every fallen soldier. It is organizations like the Gold Star Mothers of Northern California that keep their memories alive so that we as a nation pay tribute to them every day.

These Mothers carry out the promise to our fallen heroes set forth by Reagan: "That just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we."

CONGRATULATING MAC TRISTAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF COPPELL, TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mac Tristan, Chief of Police of the city of Coppell, Texas, on his retirement after 8 years of dedicated service to the city of Coppell and over 37 years in law enforcement in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Mac Tristan began his career with the Coppell Police Department on January 24, 2011, following over 29 years of service with the Carrollton Police Department. For the past eight years, Mac's leadership as Chief of Police has brought incredible success, in part due to his problem oriented strategies and strong conviction for serving his community. Through his guidance, the Coppell Police Department has experienced new standards of efficiency, and Chief Tristan has set a tremendous example for those in law enforcement and public service.

Mac's commitment to public service goes beyond his service in law enforcement, and is a true indication of the quality of his character. Through his work with the Kiwanis Club and as a Faith Coach at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Mac has helped countless people in need through some of their most difficult of days. Mac continues to lecture locally and internationally on leadership, problem oriented policing, challenging organizational cultures, and civil servant leadership.

Mac is a graduate of Sam Houston State University, where he received his Bachelor's

Degree in Criminal Justice with Honors. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the United States Army War College Strategic Implementation Seminar.

For over three decades, Chief Tristan has served his community tirelessly, putting himself in harm's way to ensure the safety of countless Texas residents. We are indebted to him for his exceptional leadership and his many years of bravery and sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary service of Chief Mac Tristan and wishing him and his family the best in his retirement.

HONORING MARK TIEKEN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Mark Tieken, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Mark worked in my Indiana office for nearly a year, serving in a variety of capacities and focused primarily on field operations. Mark has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our organization. He was always quick with a joke and was someone I could rely on for on the ground political advice.

I want to thank Mark for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

CELEBRATING MR. ALPHONSO B. DEAL

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate Mr. Alphonso B. Deal on the 30th anniversary of his passing, which was earlier this year, on July 7th.

From his lifetime commitment in the Harlem community, Alphonso B. Deal will be remembered for his significant efforts to increase access and participation for diverse communities. This included organizing a house crawl on Saturday afternoons to encourage people to live in Harlem all while showcasing the beauty in Harlem's history and architecture. He was a staunch believer in expanding opportunities for the wider community. To expand access for Latinos, Asians, and African Americans to take the New York State Court Officer's examination, Mr. Deal also asked the Tribune Society to hold a free test preparation course.

Alphonso B. Deal was a dedicated public servant who served as a New York State court officer for decades until he was tragically murdered on July 7, 1988—heroically pursuing a ruthless criminal who robbed one man at gun point and shot two others.